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# NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

THE TRUTH IS ALWAYS FAIR

FREE JUL 20, 2017 - JUL 26, 2017 VOL. 18, NO. 22 FREE

**Taxpayers paid \$4 million for Hotel Niagara then sold it for \$1. Cuomo explains giveaway, but not why the state bought and sold and lost \$4 million!**



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**North Tonawanda  
officials want her  
gone!**

## Cuomo's efforts at upstate development yield few results despite costing billions

### Mike Hudson

Four new studies reveal that the \$8 billion spent annually by the Cuomo administration on economic development – particularly upstate – has done relatively little to develop much in the way of attracting new industry, creating jobs or spurring economic growth.

The studies, conducted by Pew Charitable Trusts, the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, ProPublica and, most recently, Gannett's USA Today Network, are all in agreement. The governor's programs provide New Yorkers with very little for their money.

The reports spotlight the regular failure of the corporations that benefit from the various tax breaks and subsidies to create the number of jobs promised, and the nontransparent reporting of exactly how the money gets spent.

Both of these conditions are much on display in Niagara Falls, as officials scrambled to throw money, tax incentives and real estate at Buffalo nursing home magnate Mark Hamis-

ter for the development of a nondescript hotel downtown.

As Mr. Hamister reduced the quality and size of the project and significantly reduced the number of jobs he said would be created, the cost of the project went up and up. Before construction began, Mr. Hamister said the hotel would cost around \$36 million even as successful hotelier Michael DiCenzo told City Hall he could build the exact same facility for no more than \$18 million.

While New York spends more on economic development than the next three highest spending states combined, the spending has utterly failed to revive the upstate economy. Unemployment is down, but that's mainly due to the fact that 3.5 percent of the region's workforce has fled the state, all four studies agreed.

Gov. Cuomo continually takes credit for "investing" more upstate than any previous governor, and that may be true. He rarely talks about the results delivered. Meanwhile, his much touted "Buffalo Billion" program has resulted in scandal and federal indictments.

For example, Niagara Falls Mayor Paul



Cuomo fixer and bad angel Joe Percoco (left) was one of nine indicted with Ciminelli in the Buffalo Billion scandal.



Cuomo's crony Lou Ciminelli in September, 2016.

Dyster and City Planner Tom DeSantis justified the purchase of an unwanted brownfield on Highland Avenue on the program and its centerpiece, the long delayed SolarCity development in Buffalo.

"With SolarCity coming online shortly, it will create a lot of demand for shovel-ready, industrial development sites," Mr. DeSantis said nearly two years ago.

That was before federal indictments reached out and touched some of Gov. Cuomo's closest advisors, and executives of Buffalo's LPCiminelli construction company including the contractor's CEO, Louis P. Ciminelli.

The governor's not just fighting off efforts to demand for better oversight and tighter controls, he's trying to eliminate current requirements for development authorities to report anything at all about how many jobs are created.

Critics have accused Gov. Cuomo of trying to "buy" the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination by greasing wealthy developers, consultants and contractors with taxpayer money so that they will contribute to his campaign when the time comes.

Who knows. It seems to have worked for Mayor Dyster.

## NIAGARA FALLS REPORTER

"The Truth is Always Fair"

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## Seneca gas prices competitive with American white owned stations here

### Mike Hudson

While area gas station owners and politicians voiced concerns that the Seneca Nation of Indians would undercut gas prices at the recently opened gas station near the Seneca Niagara Casino, so far it hasn't happened.

Stations owned by Native Americans and located on reservations don't have to pay taxes, which can allow them to sell gasoline at substantially cheaper prices than white owned stations.

When they were granted 50 acres of prime downtown real estate and the city's former convention center in which to open a casino in 2002, Seneca leaders said they had no plans to open a gas station / smoke shop on the property.

But the state neglected to get that in writing as part of the compact.

Then-Governor George Pataki said at the time that putting a 50 acre mini reservation in the heart of the city's tourist district would create jobs, boost tourism and result in significant spin-off business activity in the neighborhoods adjacent to the casino.

The giveaway also allowed Mr. Pataki to resolve a longstanding lawsuit by the Senecas against the state in which the tribe argued that the 1815 sale of Grand Island by the tribe to the state had been illegal.

When the tribe opened the Seneca One Stop gas station and smoke shop last December, over the objections of city leaders, local gas station and store owners and the New York Association of Convenience Stores, some feared the worst.

But the Senecas asserted their right to do whatever they wanted.

"Our sovereignty, and the control we have over all Seneca lands, provides us the right to create economic opportunities on our territories," Seneca President Todd Gates said when the One Stop opened. "We will continue to invest and develop all of our sovereign territories, here in Niagara as well as Buffalo Creek, Cattaraugus, Allegany and Oil Spring, because it is our responsibility to the Seneca people to grow our economy and to keep our Nation strong."

Today, the One Stop is selling gas for \$2.35 a gallon, a dime less than the \$2.45 charged by some white owned stations here, but more than the \$2.26 to \$2.29 a gallon price available in North Tonawanda, and about equal to the \$2.38 to \$2.39 charged by Niagara Falls stations such as Delta Sonic on Niagara Falls Boulevard, the Gulf station on Buffalo Avenue in LaSalle or the Sunoco at Packer and Porter roads.

Of course, since the white owned stations have to pay taxes, the profit margin is much larger for the Senecas.

## The Buffalo Niagara Film Festival Returns



The Buffalo Niagara Film Festival has grown from its modest beginnings on the University at Buffalo campus in 2007. Since then, it has become the region's premier gathering of professionals and dreamers who aspire to bask in the glow of the silver screen.

Bill Cowell, the founder of the BNFF, points to this year's new venue as proof of the growth and popularity of the Festival. This year, the Four Seasons Cinema at 2429 Military Road in the City of Niagara Falls will play host to the event, starting on Wednesday, September 20. The Four Seasons has six screens and all of them will be in use during the Festival.

"Usually we've had 100 to 120 films – features, shorts and documentaries," Mr. Cowell said. He expects over 250 films in 2017 and the roster is not yet complete.

The BNFF is not just a showcase for cinematic product, but also an educational resource for those will to share their experience, and those eager to learn. Seminars and panel discussions will pepper the festivities with film industry professionals.

An acting workshop will be conducted by South Buffalo born Tom Todoroff, a New York City based acting coach and producer, who has worked with such acclaimed actors as Liam Neeson, Rene Russo, the late Bob Hoskins, among many others. There will be panels discussing entertainment law, cinematography, and screen writing.

The Festival's newly appointed Executive Director, Rocco LaPenna, has been spearheading a screen-writing contest involving school children. In partnership with five local schools, Mr. LaPenna developed the five-min-

ute short screen-writing contest. Enlisting colleagues from graduate school to serve as judges, the group evaluated the students' submissions, and chose one to be produced and screened at the festival in September.

"The primary goal is to get kids interested and involved in writing," said Mr. LaPenna. "I'm grateful to every school that participated."

Since one of the screenplays written by the students is going to be produced, Mr. LaPenna had to raise funds for the production. He was able to successfully raise \$2,500 and will serve as producer, director and as an actor in the finished product.

"It wasn't my intention to act in the project, but once everyone chose this script, it became one less part to cast," Mr. LaPenna noted, pointing out that a big part of his job is problem-solving. Niagara Falls resident Mark Pasqualotto is serving as co-director. Shooting for the short film is set for the first two weeks of August.

The list of special guests appearing at the Festival is still being developed, but cult horror actress Lynn Lowry is slated to appear. Actor Robert Davi, perhaps best known for his roles as a villain, is also scheduled.

The Festival website – [www.TheBNFF.com](http://www.TheBNFF.com) – is a work in progress. But soon it will list the many entrees to be featured at the Festival, along with crucial information related to event scheduling, ticket packages and film listings.

The Buffalo Niagara Film Festival is scheduled to begin on Wednesday, September 20 and will run through Saturday, September 30, 2017.



"It is our responsibility to the Seneca people to grow our economy and to keep our Nation strong," says Seneca President Todd Gates. If only New York leaders felt the same way.

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## Taxpayer ripoff at the Hotel Niagara: "Buy high, sell low" new Cuomo motto



Gov. Cuomo looks like he just saw a ghost lurking in a corner of the dilapidated Hotel Niagara, as if guest-starring for some kind of Paranormal Preservationist cable TV show. The real horrorshow, however, is reserved for New York taxpayers, who are taking a \$4.4 million hit as Ed Riley (left) of Brine Wells Development, LLC. is coming in to the historic property for \$1. Mayor Dyster, and Howard Zemsky of ESD (right) join in the celebration of yet another batch of excess hotel rooms planned for or already built in downtown Niagara Falls.

### Mike Hudson

"Buy low, sell high."

In the world of private investment, this time honored maxim – more than a century old and still used by brilliant business minds such as that of Warren Buffet – has been as good as gold.

But the brilliant business minds currently controlling both New York State and Niagara Falls, Mayor Paul Dyster and Gov. Andrew Cuomo, seem to think Mr. Buffet and generations of business people before him have it backwards.

"Buy high and sell low," they say. "And the future prosperity of the city will be assured."

The most recent example of this is the derelict old Hotel Niagara on Rainbow Boulevard, closed since 2007 and the subject of numerous "revitalization" efforts ever since. Using money from the state's scandal plagued Buffalo Billion economic development program, the state bought out former owner Harry Stinson for \$4.4 million in March, 2016.

Now it's been sold to a guy from Syracuse named Ed Riley for one dollar.

That's right, Mr. Cuomo thinks it makes business sense to take a loss of \$4,399,000 of taxpayer money with the vague hope that, once again, the old hotel will reopen.

And that's not all.

Mr. Riley's company, Brine Wells Development, is expected to receive \$3.5 million in direct incentives, and will seek state and federal historic preservation tax credits.

The Hotel Niagara was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2008, the year after it closed.

"The Hotel Niagara was a beautiful place, representing the beauty and the grandeur and the strength of Niagara Falls," Gov.

Cuomo said during his visit to the hotel. "And then it fell into disrepair, and it sat. And now it's coming back to life. And it's coming back to life in a modern version, but with all the beauty of that history."

"The Hotel Niagara is a beautiful metaphor for all of us," he continued. "It is a monument to what was, to the grandeur of what was when Niagara was in its heyday. Connected to the community, a destination hotel, not just a hotel for out-of-town visitors, but a hotel for the community. That's where you wanted to get married, that's where you wanted to go to your prom, that's where you wanted to go on a first date."

Whether or not Gov. Cuomo actually took his first date to a hotel is uncertain.

Mr. Riley's previous claim to fame was the by all accounts successful refurbishment of the hotel Syracuse, which was seized by the city of Syracuse and flipped back to him in record time.

In that case, Mr. Riley paid just \$500,000 of his own money toward the \$1.6 million to buy the hotel from the city. The rest was reimbursed by a state grant.

"I have seen this movie before, because I



If the whole world stands against you sword in hand, would you still dare to do what you think is right?



The once glorious Hotel Niagara has many challenging issues to overcome if it is ever to be developed. Not the least of which is that it has no parking.

have seen what Ed Riley did to the Hotel Syracuse," Mr. Cuomo said. "He did a magnificent, magnificent job at the Hotel Syracuse, and that's why we're so excited he's taken on this project."

The redundancy of this last sentence has us thinking he must be taking lessons in rhet-

oric from Donald Trump.

The project is supposed to cost \$42 million, though, if the recent history of other publicly funded projects in Niagara Falls is any indication, it will end up costing much more. The north Main Street Public Safety Building, the Whirlpool Street Amtrak station and, in

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## DeVeaux Woods Carriage Barn previously doomed; now Centerpiece of state Outdoor Recreation proposal

### James Hufnagel

*"There may have been a time when preservation was about saving an old building here or there, but those days are gone. Preservation is in the business of saving communities and the values they embody."* - National Trust for Historic Preservation

An emailed response by Western Region director and Assistant Deputy State Parks Commissioner Mark Thomas obtained by the Reporter would seem to indicate that, just like six years ago, the demolition of the DeVeaux Woods Carriage Barn has been put on temporary hold. What action the state agency intends to take in the immediate future to secure the historic building, which had its temporary tarpaulin roof blown off by a March windstorm, exposing the interior to the elements, is unclear.

In addition, both Mr. Thomas, and in recent conversations brought to our attention, Marketing and Public Affairs Manager Angela Berti, appear to be blaming citizens of Niagara Falls for the plight of the Carriage Barn. If State Parks, an Albany arm of the Cuomo administration, decides to eventually raze the storied structure, which was built during the Civil War and is listed on the

National Register of Historic Places, it will be, according to the two State Parks administrators, our fault.

"... 6 years ago State Parks placed a tarp over the structure to buy time for the community to come up with a plan to stabilize the structure and look for an adaptive re-use for the structure," Mr. Thomas wrote in his email.

"Since no action has come from the community, we are taking another look at the situation," he adds, ominously.

A former Chautauqua County Executive who was cooling his heels when Eliot Spitzer plucked him from obscurity and installed him in the parks position, Thomas is a relative newcomer to the community he is not-so-subtly criticizing.

Several years ago a local group made a push to establish a school of horticulture in the buildings of DeVeaux Woods State Park. One of the first steps in such an undertaking is to form a "Friends of," group, a necessary prerequisite for local citizens to participate in substantive activities that impact a park's operation. Such "Friends of" groups exist all over the state, associated with numerous state parks. The request was stonewalled, making Mr. Thomas' assertion that "no action" has been forthcoming from the local community somewhat disingenuous.



The tarp has been dangling off the DeVeaux Woods Carriage Barn for over three months. Hopefully State Parks will repair it so that future generations can enjoy this historic building (photo by Michael Federspiel).

Councilman Ken Tompkins has worked hard to save the Carriage Barn, one of the few remaining historic Niagara Falls buildings still standing, putting the weight of his office behind his advocacy. As we reported last week, his efforts in reaching out to state representatives Senator Ort and Assemblyman Morinello, as well as Mr. Thomas and the city's Historic Preservation Commission, characterized by quick and decisive action as soon as the issue was brought to his attention, may have been the deciding factor in this happy, though possibly short-lived, outcome.

Another who warrants no less than the moniker "Hero of the Carriage Barn" is Christopher Puchalski, the man who was the driving force behind the

rescue and subsequent enshrinement of the Old Stone Chimney, which now graces the upper Niagara River waterfront. Alerting leadership at the several Buffalo and Niagara Falls preservation organizations of which he is a member undoubtedly resulted in a number of discreet inquiries at the local Prospect Point office of State Parks.

Although Mayor Dyster apparently lectured the city council on the topic on July 10, we're not sure what effect that had, since neither he nor the other four councilmembers released public statements on the matter. The minutes which may detail Dyster's speech were not yet posted on the city website at press time.

In contrast to his veiled threats to flatten it, Deputy Commissioner Thomas later states in his email that "The (Carriage Barn) building is also listed as an option for adaptive reuse in the current Outdoor Recreation RFP," referring to the June 30 document jointly released by USA Niagara, NYPA and State Parks towards the end of "establish(ing) an expanded program of outdoor recreational activities and associated real estate facilities" in Niagara Falls State Park and along the Niagara Gorge.

"Parks is consulting with structural engineers and masons who do that type of restoration work to determine what courses of action are possible," said Mr. Thomas on Friday. And since the reports of such consultants are FOIAable (obtainable under the Freedom of Information Act) the public should, at some point in the near future, have a clear understanding of what steps need to be taken to restore the Carriage Barn and a good idea of what it might cost State Parks, or a potential developer.



"Such was the will of the Father that his Son, blessed and glorious, whom he gave to us, and who was born for us, should by his own blood, sacrifice, and oblation, offer himself on the altar of the cross, not for himself, by whom 'all things were made,' but for our sins, leaving us an example that we should follow his steps."

St Francis of Assisi



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## Let's Get it Moving (We're Talking Traffic Here)

### Kenny Tompkins Niagara Falls Councilman

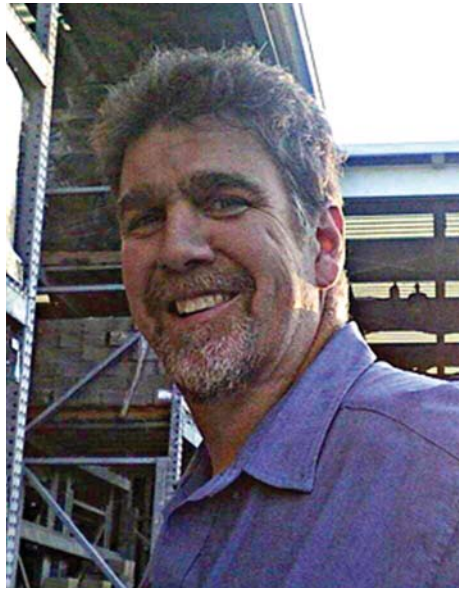
We have a traffic problem here in Niagara Falls near the Niagara Reservation Park. Guess what? This is a good thing. It means people are hearing about Niagara Falls. At the same time, we all know how frustrating it is to sit for hours in stand-still traffic, like some visitors experienced on July 4 as they headed into our downtown from the I-190.

Gridlock does not leave a positive image of our city on people who have traveled sometimes hundreds of miles to enjoy the natural beauty of our cataracts. It hurts our chances of getting them to return in the future. Anyone in tourism can tell you repeat business and excellent word-of-mouth drive visitor numbers up faster than any ad can do.

Now, Governor Cuomo has made a generous offer to throw \$300K into a study on our traffic patterns. While it's great that he recognizes this is problem, what we really need is help with stop-gap measures so that this summer's visitors can enter the city with greater ease from Grand Island.

Here are few suggestions that could alleviate our problem today while the state investigates a long-term solution:

- 1) Not every tourist needs to be routed down the Niagara



Niagara Falls Councilman Kenny Tompkins

Scenic Parkway that runs parallel to Buffalo Avenue. Why not

put up temporary flashing signs that point to alternate routes such as down Pine Avenue (Route 62) or up to Route 31 where they can circle back into the downtown area and shutdown the parkway when it reaches capacity? This would both help ease congestion and add traffic to our business districts.

- 2) Perhaps if we had more State Park Police to help keep the traffic moving smoothly once people enter into the city, it would lessen the burden on our city police force so that they can be available to assist in other areas.

- 3) One of the smartest quotes at the July 17 Tourism Advisory Board meeting was "You don't park at the front gate of Disney." We should explore shutting down Prospect Street and 1st Street, as both are very narrow streets for the volume of traffic they receive. This issue is magnified on holidays and weekends as witnessed on July 4. Instead of bringing every car into the park, create "park and ride" lots akin to what they have on the Canadian side. Have a shuttle that goes to these lots and brings visitors to the attractions.

These are just three simple suggestions to explore that can have an immediate impact on this traffic problem. While a long-term study might yield a permanent fix to this situation, we need to do something now. Tourism season is too short. When visitors become discouraged from visiting because of long waits to get into town, it can hurt our business and the city's image both today and in the future. Let's be proactive with simple solutions like these today, until the final recommendations come forward. Our city's vitality for this summer depends on this.



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## Billboard brouhaha breaks out in downtown North Tonawanda



### Mike Hudson

Two North Tonawanda officials have asked one of the nation's largest outdoor advertising companies to take down what they call a lewd billboard after residents expressed shock at the ad's adult content.

The billboard - located on a prominent corner of North Tonawanda's Webster Street in the city's revitalized, family-friendly downtown, advertises a Cheektowaga business and features a scantily clad model peddling "adult novelties."

Baton Rouge, Louisiana-based Lamar Advertising owns the billboard.

"This kind of advertising doesn't belong in North Tonawanda," Alderman-at-Large Jeff Glatz said. "We have worked hard to protect our city's family-friendly atmosphere. We are calling on Lamar to remove this sign immediately."

Niagara County Legislator Rich Andres, who has been involved with various downtown improvement projects for many years, agrees.

"We're in the midst of Canal Fest and tens of thousands of people are visiting our community, and this is not what North Tonawanda wants as their first impression," he said.

Mr. Andres said he was taking his children out for ice cream when they noticed the offending billboard.

"As a father of a young family, I was mortified when my children began asking questions about the sign during a recent trip to the Canal Side Creamery," he said.

Mr. Glatz told the Niagara Falls Reporter that the billboard sends a message that is in direct opposition to the family friendly values that he and other city leaders are trying to promote.

"This area has experienced a renaissance over the past several years, and this sign cheapens the entire downtown" he

said.

Jay Soemann, president of the North Tonawanda Merchants Association, said, "Many of our local business owners have also commented on the billboard, and they are most definitely against having it in North Tonawanda."

Mr. Glatz and Mr. Andres said they are asking Lamar to remove and replace the advertisement with a more appropriate ad.

"In the future, we ask that they consider the location of the advertisement when placing their ads, keeping in mind the family friendly atmosphere we have here in North Tonawanda," Mr. Glatz said.

Outdoor billboards in the United States are protected by the First Amendment to a certain extent. In 1981, regarding the landmark case of Metromedia vs. City of San Diego, the Supreme Court determined that "Billboards are a well-established medium of communication, used to convey a broad range of different kinds of messages."

But the Court also recognized that a "billboard creates a unique set of problems for land-use planning and development."

Billboards are generally not protected by the First Amendment when they begin to create "visual clutter" or create unsafe conditions for the general public, such as being a distraction to drivers.

A call to Lamar Advertising for comment on the matter was not immediately returned.

## COLLUSION VS CONSPIRACY... WHAT 'S THE CRIME?



**J. Gary DiLaura**  
**The Right Side**

In all my years in law enforcement I never charged anyone for Conspiring to Collude or for Colluding to Conspire?! That's because colluding and conspiring are NOT crimes!

In a May 23, 2017 FOX News article by Gregg Jarrett, Jarrett stated, "Robert Mueller is tasked with finding a crime that does not exist in the law. It is a legal impossibility."

Jarrett went on to say, "As special counsel, Mueller can engage in all manner of spectacular jurisprudential gymnastics. However, it will not change the fact that colluding with Russia is not, under America's criminal codes, a crime. It's just not there."

Maybe it should be. Perhaps someday Congress will pass a law criminalizing such conduct in political campaigns. But for now, there is not a single statute outlawing collaboration with a foreign government in a U.S. presidential election. Or any election, for that matter.

### COLLUSION

Collusion is a term that came to prominence in 1890 when President Harrison signed the Sherman Antitrust Law making "collusion" in certain antitrust matters a crime. It is only criminal in an antitrust setting! Otherwise, there are no collusion violations! A US citizen who is NOT a government employee may speak to ANY foreign official he wants to speak with unless, perhaps, he travels to a "banned" nation to do it or is otherwise SPECIFICALLY prohibited! People like FOX's Juan Williams, CNN's Chris Mathews, California's Maxine Waters and Pelosi, have such a mind boggling ignorance of Federal Criminal Law that I find it hard to believe that they are the people who make our laws, who report on events in our laws and could possibly be that ignorant of our laws!

So... no matter how bad Pelosi, Maxine Waters, Chris Mathews want to see President Trump's family in jail, they hav-

en't broken any laws like Hillary Clinton's family did, does and will continue to do.

### CONSPIRACY

As far as a Conspiracy is concerned, there must be a crime associated with the conspiracy. Two people can conspire or collude to meet, but that is not a crime! They must conspire to commit a crime against the United States (US Code) in order for it to be a crime and there must be an overt act. For example, if Loretta Lynch conspired with James Comey to obstruct the investigation into Clinton's emails, the Clinton Foundation or the negligent handling of classified information, there must be an overt act. There's a pretty good argument that Lynch directing Comey to back off, by calling the investigation a "matter." Comey actually doing that and two weeks later, closing the case, are overt acts to obstruct justice!

That is exactly why I have written several articles, as recently as last week, that the Chief Executive, President Trump, MUST exercise his executive powers and put the Special Prosecutor investigation on "hold" until he can examine the evidence to see if crimes were committed by top executives in the Obama administration. People like Lynch, Comey, Holder, Clinton, Podesta, Mills, Sullivan, Rice and on and on! There certainly is plenty of probable cause to open a RICO investigation on Obama and his entire administration!

The so-called Russian interference began Summer 2016 when Obama was President. But, NOBODY is asking "WHAT DID PRESIDENT OBAMA DO?" Just like, everybody knows Obama didn't send help to Benghazi but... no one asked Obama. WHY?

### INTERFERENCE OR HIS JOB

The predicate crimes that Obama et al committed are like a shopping list for an investigator and a prosecutor. So why is there no investigation of them right now? That's why President Trump needs to get DIRECTLY involved no matter what the left accuses him of. He MUST do his job. The more the left obstructs... the closer Trump is getting to the swamp!

They can say Trump's "interference" into the Special Prosecutor investigation is collusion, or a conspiracy... and they can say the moon is made of blue cheese. Only Schumer can claim, "But it is," and then cry!

Let our President do his job... IDIOTS!



# GEORGE MAZIARZ SEEMS INNOCENT TO THIS FORMER FBI AGENT



**J. Gary  
DiLaura**

**The Right  
Side**

I first met George Maziarz in 1985. He was a Niagara County politician with a good reputation for honesty and a sincere concern for the people of Niagara County. In 1985 the Power Authority and NOT Mother Nature, jammed the entire East Niagara River during the biggest "ice run" in history. The Lake went to the highest elevation EVER and PASNY caused the biggest ice jam in the known history of the Upper Niagara River. They stopped ALL water from flowing down the entire east river, and put the river in flood stage for 30 days and then denied any responsibility for anything!

I didn't believe for a minute that they were innocent, and formed a Homeowners Association of the many damaged riparian homeowners and ultimately, sued the New York State Power Authority for 50 million dollars on behalf of the homeowners!

Mr. Maziarz showed up at our first meeting and every one thereafter, asked how he could help and was instrumental in helping me and the some 300 homeowners who desperately needed help! Think about how YOU would go about suing the New York State Power Authority, where would you start, how would you prove the case? That's how overwhelming this daunting task was to me, even as an FBI Agent with an engineering degree and a good knowledge of hydraulics!

With the help of George Maziarz and the recently retired Chief Engineer of the Army Corps, the former Ice Control Engineer of PASNY, George Berry (the Chief Design Engineer of the Power Project) and others, we built a major case and ended up forcing

PASNY to follow their Ice Control Procedures (which the Corps said they had failed to follow) and settled out of court, 15 YEARS LATER! George helped us promote the Homeowners Association and organize with press coverage, which was what made Power Authority employees (current and former) call me with important help!

During that time I became friends with George and learned a lot about the type of person he is. I also started working as an agent in Niagara Falls, working political corruption for several years, and I can say with no hesitation that Mr. George Maziarz's reputation of honesty and integrity, in my opinion, never changed!

Mr. Maziarz's mother and a relative of mine were in the same nursing home. Every time we went to visit my relative, we walked by Mrs. Maziarz's room, George was at his mother's bedside, on his knees, praying! That says a lot about a man!

Based upon a wealth of knowledge of Niagara County from a lifetime in the Falls including years as a FBI Agent, working political corruption, I don't believe for a minute that George Maziarz would intentionally, illegally, convert any money to his own use, period! That is not him! There must be a paper trail with signatures, photos of credit card/debit card users, cashed checks and I will bet anything that Maziarz's signature or picture is not on one of them! But more important than anything, there MUST be criminal intent and it MUST be proven in order for there to be a crime! No intent...no crime!

With no knowledge of the evidence, I would have to see the ORIGINALS, personally, before I would believe anything!

You know what amazes me? It took over 35+ years to "prove" Sheldon Silver was a thief when everyone knew he was a thief. Silver was even voted the "Worst Politician", in the US, on a FOX News poll, and he contin-

ued to survive... go figure! They still haven't done anything about our governor. Is that because Silver was honest for 35 years and the governor is still honest, or is it because New York State is a Democrat SWAMP of corruption with high ranking "officials" getting even?? Maybe I'll ask Chuckie Schumer, he might know! Does anyone know where he'll be cutting ribbons next week?

You know something? When Hillary can sell out 20% of our uranium to Russia and collect \$200 million; when Obama can give \$1.7 billion in CASH to the world's biggest sponsor of terrorism, Iran; when CNN can give a freaking Presidential candidate the questions to a debate; and NOTHING is done... anytime Trump is talking to anyone Russian about ANYTHING, won't make a pimple on the devil's ass. Get my meaning?

Go find some real BAD GUYS!

That's my opinion and I'm sticking to it!!!

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The remedy for weakness is  
not brooding over weakness,  
but thinking of strength...

~ Swami Vivekananda



## Grandinetti's Buffalo fundraiser an insult to local city businesses

### Mike Hudson

Why does Kristen Grandinetti even bother to live in Niagara Falls?

The cat hating, Facebook addicted, formerly Catholic city councilwoman – whose bed and breakfast operation on Memorial Parkway was found to be in violation of city codes – held a major fundraiser last week, but it wasn't in Niagara Falls.

Instead of supporting a local business, she instead chose to host the July 13 event at Buffalo's Coco Bar and Bistro, located at 888 Main St. in the fashionable Allentown district, where you can get a \$14 hamburger or a Caesar salad that costs the same.

The councilwoman once told a constituent on Facebook, "If you don't like where you are, MOVE, you are not a tree!" on a public Facebook forum.

But it's Ms. Grandinetti herself who appears to dislike the Cataract City.

Following her dumbfounding 2013 reelection victory, she announced her resignation from the Roman Catholic Church. Just five days after her win, Ms. Grandinetti posted a photograph of the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd in Buffalo.

"My new spiritual home," Ms. Grandinetti wrote beneath the photo.



Kristen Grandinetti

"Though it saddened me to leave the Catholic Church after more than 50 years, I am now a member of a church who loves and welcomes all. I am a proud Episcopalian. This is the Church of the Good Shepherd. And love it...female priest...double love it...she is married!"

The Church of the Good Shepherd does indeed have a female rector, Cathy Dempsey-Sims. And she is indeed married, to a woman named Lucinda Dempsey-Sims, known as "Pete" to her friends.

Councilwoman Grandinetti outraged decent, cat loving Falls taxpayers with proposed legislation that threatened fines and even jail time for city residents whose humanitarianism motivated them to feed strays, or cat owners whose cats were

what she called a "nuisance." She got zero support from her city Council colleagues but – after the story went viral on the internet – she did manage to get more than a few people wishing her death.

Her Facebook posts have been a constant source of trouble, both at City Hall and with her employers at the Niagara Falls City School District. In the run-up to the 2015 election here, Mayor Paul Dyster – who was seeking a third term – begged her to stop posting, which she managed to do for about three months.

Ms. Grandinetti took to Facebook to called her employer, the Niagara Falls City School District, "borderline criminal" for its handling of sex education.

Ms. Grandinetti teaches kindergarten classes at the school district.

"I am tired of my students having to pay the price for our ignorance," she wrote. "It is borderline criminal."

Exactly what price the 4-and-5-year-olds she teaches are actually paying, Ms. Grandinetti doesn't say. But whatever price it is, it apparently has something to do with something called comprehensive sex ed.

She later apologized for her remarks.

Facebook addiction affects the brain in a similar way to taking cocaine, new research suggests.

Facebook addiction may show up in brain scans of those who can't stay off the

site, affecting the grey matter in a similar way that cocaine does, academics have found.

"The impulsive system can be thought of as a car's accelerator, while the inhibitory system can be likened to a brake," explained Professor Ofir Turel of California State University.

"In addictions, there is very strong acceleration associated with the impulsive system often coupled with a malfunctioning inhibitory system."

Researchers found that Facebook triggers activated the amygdala, which helps establish the significance of events and emotions, and the striatum, which is involved in the processing and anticipation of rewards.

In other words, it can be as much an escape from the grim reality of life in Niagara Falls as having a fundraiser or joining a church in Buffalo. Numerous citizens have complained about Councilwoman Grandinetti being glued to her iPhone during City Council meetings and paying no attention whatsoever to what was going on around her.

But, like her boss Mayor Dyster himself, Ms. Grandinetti needs the money of the Buffalo interests to stand a snowball's chance in hell of getting reelected.

And she's not embarrassed to take it.

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# Niagara Falls Jokes



The driver on the Discover Niagara shuttle announced that he was going to tell a joke at the expense of Niagara Falls. A woman in the back of the shuttle said, "No, don't do that. I live here." The driver looked up at her in the mirror and said, "Oh, that's okay. I'll explain it to you afterwards."

\*\*\*

Then she got off the Discover Niagara shuttle at the next stop, and he had to save his joke for the next day, when somebody got on again.

\*\*\*

A Niagara Falls man was drinking at a Lewiston bar all afternoon, so he decided that he would take the Discover Niagara shuttle home... Luckily, it was still where he had parked it.

\*\*\*

A Niagara Falls resident called the Amtrak office at the new \$43 million Niagara Falls International Railway Station and Intermodal Transportation Center, and asked, "How long would it take for a train to get him from Niagara Falls to Albany?" "Just a minute," said the Amtrak representative. "Ok, thank you," said the caller, and hung up.

\*\*\*

Mayor Dyster and Seth Piccirillo were on a small boat on the Niagara River when their engine failed. While rummaging through the boat's hold for life jackets, Piccirillo stumbles across an old lamp. Hoping that a genie would appear, he rubbed the lamp vigorously. To the amazement of both men, a genie came forth. This particular genie, however, stated that he could only deliver one wish, not the standard three.

Without giving much thought to the matter Dyster blurts out, "Make the entire river into beer!" The genie clapped his hands, and immediately the entire river and falls turns into the finest home brew ever quaffed by mortal man.

Simultaneously, the genie vanished. The rapidly accelerating current of the rapids of beer broke against the boat's hull as the men considered their circumstances.

Piccirillo looked disgustedly at the Mayor, whose wish had been granted. After a long, tension filled moment, he yells, "Nice going! Now we're going to have to piss in the boat!"

\*\*\*

A Niagara Falls man was pulled over for speeding, and as the cop approached his car, he noticed three hand guns on the seat right next to him.

"Sir," said the cop, "Can I ask why you have those firearms in the car?"

"Well officer," he replied, "it's quite simple, I'm a juggler in a circus and this is my equipment!" The cop, clearly not believing him, insisted that he step out of the car and juggle the the three guns so he can see if his story was indeed true. Which the man proceeded to do.

Just then Mayor Dyster and his wife happened to drive by and Dyster turned to her and said, "Becky, am I glad I finally gave up drinking home brew! Can you believe the sobriety test we're giving now?!"

## Registered Apprenticeship

The US and New York State Departments of Labor recognize and monitor registered skilled apprenticeship programs in NYS and throughout the United States. The Laborers' International Union of North America publicly promotes our successful model of labor-management registered apprenticeship programs to combat the growing emphasis on employer programs supported by taxpayers.

### What is Registered Apprenticeship?

It's a job. Apprentices start working from day one with incremental wage increases as they become more proficient. It's on-the-job learning and education. Registered Apprenticeship includes on-the-job learning from an assigned mentor combined with technical training provided by apprenticeship training centers, technical schools, community colleges, and institutions employing distance and computer-based learning systems.

It's a credential. At the end of the apprenticeship, all apprentices receive a nationally recognized credential. Some apprenticeship programs offer interim credentials as apprentices achieve important milestones during their apprenticeship.

### What are some advantages of Registered Apprenticeship?

The benefits to employers are: more highly skilled employees, reduced turnover rates, higher productivity, lower investment in recruitment, a more diverse workforce, a new pool of workers and the creation of career pathways. The benefits to registered apprentices are: being nationally recognized and portable credentials, improved skills and competencies, higher wages as skills increase and career advancement.

Registered Apprenticeship programs are operated by partnerships of employers, labor management organizations and government. Apprenticeship sponsors – employers, employer associations and labor-management organizations – register programs with federal and state government agencies. Sponsors provide mentors, on-the-job learning opportunities and required technical instruction to apprentices. Incorporating Registered Apprenticeship directly into your workforce development system will strengthen your local and regional economy by offering highly trained and educated residents. Let Registered Apprenticeship be your competitive advantage. Laborers' Local 91 accepts apprenticeship applications the first Tuesday of every month from 8 AM – 12 noon at our training facility located at 4500 Witmer Industrial Estates Niagara Falls, NY 14305.

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